

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 10. This sheet, which includes Fig. 10, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 10. Fig. 10 has been labeled "conventional art."

Attachment: Replacement Sheet (1)

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated September 29, 2005. Non-elected claims 23-26 have been canceled, without prejudice in view of the Restriction Requirement. New claims 27-28 have been added. Thus, claims 1-22 and 27-28 are now pending. Applicant affirms the election of Group I.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 4-6 and 15-17 contain allowable subject matter.

The drawings have been amended as suggested by the Examiner. In particular, Fig. 10 has been labeled "conventional art."

Claims 6 and 15-17 have been amended for non-substantive formality purposes as suggested by the Examiner.

Claim 1 stands rejected under Section 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by DE 3336652 (DE '652). This Section 102(b) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 requires "a substrate holder disposed between the anode electrode and the cathode electrode; and one conductive member disposed between the substrate holder and one electrode of either the anode electrode or the cathode electrode, wherein the substrate holder supports the substrate, the one conductive member is provided between the one electrode and the substrate holder so as to substantially cover an entire space between the one electrode and the substrate holder, and the one conductive member is electrically connected to the one electrode and the substrate holder." Thus, claim 1 requires a substrate holder that supports the substrate, and requires that the conductive member is electrically connected to at least the electrode and the substrate holder. For purposes of example and without limitation, the substrate holder is

advantageous in that it permits suppression or reduction of unnecessary discharge occurring in a gap between a substrate holder and an electrode, and may suppress or reduce formation of an uneven discharge on a substrate. The cited art fails to disclose or suggest the aforesaid underlined features of claim 1.

DE '652 fails to disclose or suggest a substrate holder that supports the substrate, and also fails to disclose or suggest that the conductive member is electrically connected to the one electrode and the substrate holder as required by claim 1. In particular, element 19 of DE '652 is a substrate, *not* a substrate holder. Moreover, element 23 in DE '652 is merely a carbon layer, and is not a substrate. Thus, it will be appreciated that DE '652 fails to disclose or suggest the claimed substrate holder, and also fails to disclose or suggest a conductive member electrically connected to the one electrode and the substrate holder as required by claim 1. DE '652 is entirely unrelated to claim 1 in these respects.

Claim 12 requires “a substrate holder disposed between the anode electrode and the cathode electrode; and a plurality of conductive members disposed between the substrate holder and one electrode of either the anode electrode or the cathode electrode, wherein the substrate holder supports the substrate, the plurality of conductive members are provided in parallel to each other between the one electrode and the and the substrate holder so as to cover a substantially entire space between the one electrode and the and the substrate holder, and the plurality of conductive members are electrically connected to the one electrode and the substrate holder.” DE '652 fails to disclose or suggest these underlined features of claim 12. DE '652 fails to disclose or suggest the claimed substrate holder, and also fails to disclose or suggest conductive members electrically connected to the one electrode and the substrate holder as

required by claim 12. DE '652 is entirely unrelated to the invention of claim 12 in these respects.

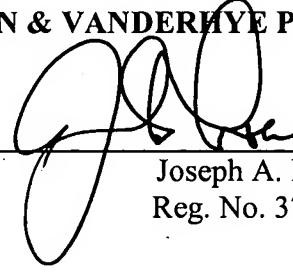
Claim 27 requires that "the conductive member comprises a plurality of spaced apart conductive members that are in electrical communication with each other." DE '652 fails to disclose or suggest these features of claim 27.

Claim 28 requires that "the conductive member comprises a plurality of spaced apart leaf-spring like conductive plates, at least some of the leaf-spring like conductive plates contacting the one electrode." DE '652 fails to disclose or suggest these features of claim 28.

It is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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